

Pastor Of First Baptist Church Resigns Sunday

The Rev. James O. Mattox, pastor of the First Baptist Church here since January 1960, resigned following the morning worship service Sunday. His resignation, which is to become effective the first of April was presented in a letter to the church read by Paul Wilson, chairman of deacons.

Mr. Mattox has accepted a call to become the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton.

A native of Nash County, he is a graduate of Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he received a BD degree in 1949 and a ThM degree in 1950.

He served as a chaplain in the U. S. Army from 1951 to 1954, during which time he served in Korea where he received a "battle field promotion" to Captain and was awarded the bronze star.

Following his release from the service, he became pastor of the

Hertford Baptist Church in Hertford where he served from 1954 till the end of 1959 and his coming to Red Springs.

Mattox is the immediate past-moderator for the Robeson Baptist Association, a position he held for two years. He also served as moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association while a pastor in Hertford.

He has served on various committees of the Baptist State Convention and is now serving his second term on the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Homes for the Aging and is president of this board. He is also chairman of the steering committee for the Greater Robeson Baptist Crusade to be held in June in the Lumberton High School Auditorium.

Mrs. Mattox, the former Doris Meekins of Raleigh, is art teacher in the Red Springs City Schools. Their three children are Phillip, 13; Suzanne, 11; and Mark 4.

Red Springs Citizen

Robbins Record

Robbinsville: Graham Star

Robersonville: Herald

Rockingham: Post-Dispatch

Rockingham: Sandhill Independent

Roxboro: Courier-Times

Rutherfordton: Rutherford Co. News

Scotland Neck Commonwealth

Selma: Johnstonian-Sun

Shallotte: Brunswick Beacon

Shelby: Cleveland Times

Siler City: Chatham News

Smithfield Herald

Snow Hill: Greene Co. Ledger

Southern Pines Pilot

Southport: State Port Pilot

FEB 6 1969

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1969

Past Robeson Moderator Resigns Pastorate



James O. Mattox, pastor of the Red Springs First Baptist Church, resigned from that church last Sunday to accept a similar position with the First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton. Mattox served as immediate

past moderator of the Robeson Association and has been in the Association as pastor of the Red Springs Church for nine years. He will assume his duties in Rutherfordton on April 1.

spruce Pine: Tri-Co. News
Saint Pauls Review

swansboro: White Oak Scene

Sylva Herald

Tabor City Tribune

Taylorsville Times

Trenton: Jones Journal

Troy: Montgomery Herald

Valdese News

Wadesboro: Anson Record

Wadesboro: Messenger & Intelligencer

Wake Forest: Wake Weekly

Wallace Enterprise

Walnut Cove: Stokes Record

FEB 6 1969

James Mattox

Assumes Duties

At First Baptist

Rev. James O. Mattox, will assume his duties as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton on April 6 at which time he will conduct their Crusade of the Americas revival.

Rev. Mattox is a native of Nash county and attended public school in Zebulon, Wendell and Wilson. He is a graduate of Wake Forest and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He served as interim pastor of the Nashville Baptist Church and La Grange Baptist Church during college. He served as associate pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., during his seminary days and while a chaplain in the U.S. Army, he received a "battlefield promotion" to captain and a bronze star.

Having served on various committees for the Baptist State Convention he is presently serving a second term as president of the Board of Trustees for Baptist Homes for the Aging.

His brother, Gregory Walcott (Bernard Mattox), a movie and TV actor and former Southern Baptist Convention vice-president is an active layman in denominational affairs and a lay-preacher.

Fairmont: Times-Messenger
Forest City Courier
Franklin Press
Franklinton Post
Fuquay Springs: Independent
Gatesville: Gates Co. Index
Gibsonville: News
Graham: Alamance News
Granite Falls Press
Greensboro: Democrat

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MAR 20 1969

Rev. Mattox Ends 9-Year Ministry Here

Chairs were placed in the aisles of the First Baptist Church Sunday as church members and friends in the community gathered for the final morning worship service conducted by the Rev. James O. Mattox as pastor of the church. Mr. Mattox and his family moved on Tuesday of this week to Rutherfordton where he has accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church.

The worship services Sunday marked the close of a ministry here which began in January of 1960. Prior to coming to Red Springs, Mr. Mattox had served four years as pastor of the Baptist Church in Hertford. He went to the Hertford Church following his release from the Army in which he served as a chaplain from 1951 to 1954, much of that time in Korea.

Mattox is a native of Nash County and a graduate of Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in

Louisville, Ky. He has served on various committees of the Baptist State Convention and is presently serving his second term on the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Homes for the Aging, of which he is board president. He is the immediate past moderator of the Robeson Baptist Association and served as the original chairman of the steering committee for the Greater Robeson Baptist Crusade.

Mrs. Mattox, a native of Raleigh, was the art teacher this year for the Red Springs City Schools and also taught art in previous years in Laurinburg and at Flora Macdonald College.

Their children are Phillip, Suzanne and Mark.

Mr. Mattox's letter of resignation was read to the church on Sunday, February 2.

At the conclusion of the morning service Sunday, the chairman of deacons, Paul Wilson, presented gifts from the church to Mr. and Mrs. Mattox. An engraved silver fruit bowl and a check were given in love and appreciation by the members of the church.

Sunday night the ordinance of

the Lord's Supper was observed and following this brief worship service, the church entertained at a farewell reception for the Mattox family.

Floral arrangements of pink and white decorated the fellowship hall where the reception was held. The refreshment table was covered with a cutwork cloth and held a silver punch bowl at one end and a silver epergne filled with pink and white carnations and pink candles at the other end. Presiding alternately at the punch bowl were Mrs. Raymond Ammons and Mrs. Edwin Hamilton. Guests helped themselves to decorated cakes, nuts and mints. Mrs. Carl Livermore assisted by the kitchen committee of the church was in charge of the reception.

Guests were welcomed at the door by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilson after which they were received by the Mattox family. Presiding alternately at the guest register were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Wicker. Goodbyes were said to Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Barden.

Approximately 300 people attended the reception, including many from other churches.

Red Springs Citizen

Robbins Record

Robbinsville: Graham Star

Robersonville: Herald

Rockingham: Post-Dispatch

Rockingham: Sandhill Independent

Roxboro: Courier-Times

Rutherfordton: Rutherford Co. News

Scotland Neck Commonwealth

Selma: Johnstonian-Sun

Shallotte: Brunswick Beacon

Shelby: Cleveland Times

Siler City: Chatham News

Smithfield Herald

Snow Hill: Greene Co. Ledger

Southern Pines Pilot

Southport: State Port Pilot

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APR 3 1960

Rev. J. O. Mattox To Head Association

At the annual meeting of the Robeson Baptist Association held October 20 and 21, the Rev. J. O. Mattox, pastor of the First

Baptist Church of Red Springs, was named moderator of the organization. He succeeds the Rev. Lawrence H. Knott, pastor of the St. Pauls First Baptist Church, who served in this position for two years.

A native of Nash County, Mr. Mattox attended public school in Wendell and Wilson and is a graduate of Wake Forest College. He received his Th. M. degree at Southern Seminary in

Louisville, Ky., and then served as a chaplain in the U. S. Army with overseas duty in Korea.

He began his ministry in Red Springs in January of 1960, coming from the Hertford Baptist Church where he was pastor for approximately six years. He has also served churches in LaGrange and Nashville in North Carolina and the Beechmont Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

PAGE THREE

Mr. and Mrs. Mattox have three children, Phillip, Suzanne and Mark.

There are over 60 churches in the Robeson Association and the associational missionary is Dr. H. E. Walden, Jr., whose office is located in Lumberton.

Spruce Pine: Lee Co. News

Saint Pauls Review

Swansboro: White Oak Scene

Sylva Herald

Tabor City Tribune

Taylorsville Times

Trenton: Jones Journal

Troy: Montgomery Herald

Valdese News

Wadesboro: Anson Record

Wadesboro: Messenger & Intelligencer

Wake Forest: Wake Weekly

Wallace Enterprise

Walnut Cove: Stokes Record

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Robeson

NOV 10 1966

Revival Scheduled For April 22 -28 At Salem Baptist

Rev. James O. Mattox, pastor of First Baptist Church of Red Springs, will be the guest speaker for the revival services at Salem Baptist Church April 22 - 28. The services which begin at 7:30 p.m., will include congregational singing solos, and choir selections.

Nursery will be provided for small children.

The Rev. Mr. Mattox is a native of Nash County and attended public schools in Zebulon, Wendell and Wilson. He is a graduate of Wake Forest College, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky with a B. D. degree and a Masters of Theology degree.

He served as Chaplain in the U. S. Army from 1951 - 1954. His tour included service on the front lines of Korea, where he received "battle field promotion to Captain" and the bronze star.

Rev. Mattox grew up in, was baptized and ordained by the First Baptist Church of Wilson. His parents now live at Rocky Mount where they are active members of the First Baptist Church. His one brother is



REV. JAMES O. MATTOX

Gregory Walcott, (Bernard Mattox) movie and T.V. actor and Southern Baptist layman in California. He is also former Vice President of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. Mattox is married to the former Doris Meekins of Cary and Raleigh. She is a graduate of Mars Hill College and George Peabody College of Nashville, Tennessee. They have 3 children, Phillip (11), Susanne (9), and Mark (2).

Andrews Journal
Apex News-Herald
Asheboro: Randolph Guide
Asheboro: Courier-Tribune
Asheville News
Ayden Tribune
Belmont Banner
Bessemer City Record
Benson Review
Black Mountain News
Brevard: Transylvania Times
Bryson City: Smoky Mt. Times
Boone: Watauga Democrat
Burgaw: Pender Chronicle

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APR 18 1968

Guest Preacher To Be At Green Springs Church

The Rev. J. O. Mattox, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Red Springs ~~will~~ be guest preacher for next week's revival at Green Springs Baptist Church, Parkton, Rt. 2. Mr. Mattox, a native of Nash County has been pastor of the Red Springs Church since January 1960. Prior to his coming to Red Springs, Mr. Mattox was graduated from Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Seminary. He served as chaplain in Korea from 1951-1954 where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Mr. Mattox has served as Moderator of the Chowan and Robeson Baptist Associations and is presently President of the Board of Trustees for the Baptist Homes for the Aging.

The Rev. Mr. Mattox's brother, Gregory Walcott, is a Southern Baptist layman in California and a former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Gregory was the producer and star of the recent movie "Bill Wallace of China."

The revival services will begin Sunday morning, November 17th and will continue through Friday, November 22nd. The evening services will be at 7:30. Nursery facilities will be provided for the small children. The Rev. J. C. Halliburton is pastor of the church.



JAMES O. MATTOX

Saint Pauls Review

Swansboro: White Oak Scene

Sylva Herald

Tabor City Tribune

Taylorsville Times

Trenton: Jones Journal

Troy: Montgomery Herald

Valdese News

Wadesboro: Anson Record

Wadesboro: Messenger & Intelligencer

Wake Forest: Wake Weekly

Wallace Enterprise

Walnut Cove: Stokes Record

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11-14-68



REVIVALIST—The Rev. J. O. Mattox, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Red Springs, will conduct a revival Nov. 17-22 at 7:30 o'clock each evening at Green Springs Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Parkton. The Rev. Mr. Mattox, a brother of movie producer Gregory Walcott, graduated from Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Seminary. He served as a chaplain in Korea from 1951-54.

Elizabeth City Herald

Fayetteville Observer

~~Gastonia Gazette~~

Goldsboro News-Argus

Greensboro Daily News

Greensboro Record

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Robeson
NOV 15 1968

~~New S. River~~

Rev. Mattox Assumes Duties

The First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton will begin their Crusade of the Americas revival on Easter Sunday, April 8.

This revival will be conducted by the new pastor, the Rev. James O. Mattox, who begins his pastorate that Sunday.

The Rev. Mattox is a native of Nash County and attended public school in Zebulon, Wendell and Wilson. He is a graduate of Wake Forest and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He served as interim pastor of the Nashville Baptist Church and the La Grange Baptist Church, during college. He served as associate pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., during his seminary days and while a Chaplain in the U. S. Army he received a "battlefield promotion" to Captain and a bronze star.

He served as pastor of Hertford Baptist Church, Hertford and the First Baptist Church of Red Springs and as moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association. Having served on various committees for Baptist State Convention he is presently serving a second term as president of the Board of Trustees for Baptist Homes for the Aging.

The Rev. Mattox grew up

and was baptized and ordained by the First Baptist Church of Wilson.

His brother, Gregory Walcott (Bernard Mattox), a movie and TV actor and former Southern Baptist Convention vice - president is an active layman in denominational affairs and a lay-preacher. He is the produced of the movie "Bill Wallace of China", the story of a South-

Roxboro: Courier-Times
Rutherfordton: Rutherford Co. News
Scotland Neck: Commonwealth
Selma: Johnstonian-Sun
Shallotte: Brunswick Beacon
Shelby: Cleveland Times
Siler City: Chatham News
Smithfield Herald
Snow Hill: Greene Co. Ledger
Southern Pines Pilot
Southport: State Port Pilot

MAR 19 1969



REV. MATTOX

ern Baptist Missionary who was killed by the communists.

The Rev. Mattox is married to the former Doris Meehins. Their three children are Phillip 14, Suzanne 11 and Mark 4. Mrs. Mattox is a graduate of Mars Hill, George Peabody College and has done graduate work at Columbia University in New York. She taught art in the City schools of High Point, Rocky Mount, Laurinburg and Red Springs. She also taught at Flora MacDonald College in Red Springs.



REV. JAMES MATTOX

First Baptist Plan Revival

Special Evangelistic Services will be held at the First Baptist Church in ~~Raeford~~ November 15-20. Services will begin on Sunday morning at the 11:00 a.m. program and will be held at 7:30 each evening thereafter.

The Rev. James Mattox, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, N.C. will be the guest Evangelist. The Rev. Mr. Mattox is a graduate of Wake Forest University and holds 2 degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army, during the Korean Campaign. He has a brother, who goes by the name of Gregory Walcott, who is a movie and T.V. actor. His brother has played many roles in the Bonanza Western and is an active Christian layman in Hollywood.

The Rev. Mr. Mattox was also pastor of First Baptist Church, Red Springs for nine years. The pastor, Jack Mansfield, invites the public to attend these meetings to hear this outstanding speaker. The music will be under the direction of Mrs. J.H. Austin.

Pittsboro: Chatham Record
Plymouth: Roanoke Beacon
Raeford: News-Journal
Raleigh: Carolinian

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Roverson

NOV 12 1970

Southern Seminary, has served more than seventeen years in the pastoral ministry and was a military chaplain.

On Sunday evening at 5 p.m. there will be a drug seminar with a film and Capt. Simmons of the Rutherford Detective Division as special guest. On Friday evening the youth choir of the First Baptist Church will present the unchanging message of Jesus Christ in contemporary words and sounds with the musical "Tell It Like It Is".

A nursery will be provided each evening and the public is cordially invited. Richard Bass is the Mount Vernon pastor.

Revival Speaker At Mount Vernon

Revival services will begin Sunday morning at the Mount Vernon Baptist Church and continue each evening at 7:30 p.m. Rev. James O. Mattox, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rutherfordton will bring the messages from God's word.
Rev. Mattox, a graduate of

~~Farmville Intelligencer~~

Fairmont: Times-Messenger

Forest City Courier

Franklin Press

Franklinton Post

Fuquay Springs: Independent

Gatesville: Gates Co. Index

Gibsonville: News

Graham: Alamance News

Granite Falls Press

Greensboro: Democrat

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4-20-72

Louisburg Baptist To Have Revival

Rev. James O. Mattox, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, N. C. will be the guest speaker in a series of revival services at Louisburg Baptist Church, October 28 - November 1.

Rev. Mattox is a native of Nash County and attended public schools in Zebulon, Wendell, and Wilson. He received the BA degree from Wake Forest College, and the BD and ThM degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. During his college days, he served as interim pastor of the Nashville Baptist Church in Nashville, N. C., and the La Grange Baptist Church, La Grange, N. C. While in seminary he served as associate pastor of Buchmont Baptist Church in Louisville.

During the Korean War, Rev. Mattox served as a chaplain in the U. S. Army. His tour of service included service on the front lines. He received a battle field promotion to Captain and the bronze star.

He has served as pastor of the Hertford Baptist Church, Hertford, N. C. (1954-1959); the First Baptist Church, Red Springs, N. C. (1960-1969); and has been in his present pastorate since April 1, 1969.

Rev. Mattox has served as moderator of the Chowan, Roberson, and Green River Baptist Association, and has served as a trustee for the Baptist Homes for the Aging (two terms as president of the board).

He is married to the former Doris Meekins of Raleigh and they have three children, Phillip, Suzanne, and Mark. He has one brother, Gregory Walcott (Bernard Mattox), a movie and TV actor and former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The revival will begin each

evening at 7:30 and will go through Thursday evening. A nursery will be provided.



James Mattox

Lincolnton: Lincoln Times-News
Littleton Observer
Louisburg: Franklin Times
Lumberton Post
Madison Messenger
Manteo: Coastland Times
Marion: McDowell News
Marshall: News-Record
Marshville Home
Mebane: Enterprise-Journal
Mocksville: Davie Co.-
Enterprise-Record

OCT 25 1973

May 25, 1985

North Carolina News Briefs

Ministerial Changes

JAMES O. MATTOX has retired as pastor of First church, Rutherfordton. He assumed the pastorate in April, 1969. Before his service at Rutherfordton, Mattox was pastor of churches in Hertford and Red Springs.

A graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern seminary, he also served five years as an Army chaplain in Korea.



Mattox

During his ministry in Rutherfordton, Mattox was a hospital chaplain and active in the Green River association. He has been a member of the Baptist State Convention General Board, the *Biblical Recorder* Board of Directors, and the Ministerial Board of Gardner-Webb College.

Mrs. Mattox, the former Doris Meekins of Cary, has been a third grade teacher in the Rutherford County school system. The couple has three children; Philip, who works with Christian television in Jacksonville, Fla; Suzanne, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina; and Mark, a UNC student.

In honor of the Mattox family, pastors of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches in Rutherfordton sponsored a joint worship service at the Methodist church. A reception was held after the service.

The Ruth Class of First Baptist Church hosted a reception for the family during which a video cassette recorder and monetary love gift were presented to the Mattoxes. On his final Sunday as pastor of the church, a special worship service was held followed by a fellowship luncheon.

Pastor and Mrs. Mattox will move to Raleigh in June.

Mattox, James O

b.

d.

Res.

h; w; s; dau; of:

b.

d.

Data: Photograph and other biographical information
m.

Other:

SOURCE: NCCF: Red Springs B/C, Robeson B/A History
pp. 54-56.

MATTOX, JAMES ODA, b4-11-23, 46 B.A. B.D., SBTS,
50 Th.M., SBTS, min., 1st Bapt. Ch. Red Springs.

Wake Forest Alumni Directory, p. 177.

JAMES O. MATTOX

James O. Mattox is a native of Nash County, North Carolina. He graduated from Charles L. Coon High School of Wilson, N. C. He holds the B. A. degree from Wake Forest College, the B.D. and Th.M. degrees from the Southern Baptist Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky. The First Baptist Church of Wilson, N. C. ordained him. He served as a chaplain in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict and won for himself the bronze star and a "battle field" promotion to the rank of Captain. He served as Pastor of the Hertford Baptist Church, Hertford, N. C., from 1954 until 1960 and he has been Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Red Springs, N. C. since January 1, 1960. While in the Chowan Association, he served two terms as Moderator. He has served on the Board of Trustees for the N. C. Baptist Homes for the Aging for two terms and is presently serving as President of the Board. Robeson Association elected him as Moderator in 1966 and he has served two terms in this capacity. The Steering Committee to organize and promote the Crusade of the Americas effort for 1969 elected him as Chairman. He is married to the former Doris Meekins of Raleigh and they have three children, Philip, Suzanne and Mark.

ROBESON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES, 1968, p. 3.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Name JAMES O. MATTOX Mailing Address Box 839
Rutherfordton, N. C. 28139 Telephone 704/286-9047 (O) 287-3549 (H)

Date and Place of Birth April 11, 1923 Nash County, North Carolina

Date of Ordination and Ordaining Church May 25, 1947, First Baptist, Wilson, N. C.

EDUCATION: (give institutions and degrees)

High School Charles L. Coon, Wilson, NC College Wake Forest University (BA)

Seminary Southern Baptist (BD and ThM) Other Many continuing education conferences
Louisville, Ky.

PRESENT PASTORATES (date) First Baptist, Rutherfordton, N. C. since April 1, 1969

Association Green River PREVIOUS PASTORATES (dates) US ARMY Chaplaincy
(51-54), Hertford Baptist, Hertford, N.C. (54-59) First Baptist, Red Springs, N.C.
(59-69)

FAMILY: wife Doris M. Mattox children Philip Suzanne and Mark
name names and ages
25 23 15

REMARKS: training, talents, etc. Music

OTHER INTERESTS: civic activities & organizations Kiwanis International, various
ministerial groups, etc. hobbies & recreation golf, puttering in yard, reading

EVALUATION OF TALENTS: (please indicate by marking "1" in area of strongest ability,
"2" in the second area, and "3" in the third. Feel free to fill this out for your-
self. You may be able to do it better than anyone else.)

1. Pastoral ministry 2 2: Preaching 1 3. Administration & Organization 3
4. Counseling 4 5. Building Program 8 6. Evangelism 5 7. Music 7
8. Teaching 6

Date information given April 8, 1980

~~1972~~

1973

FIRST DAY



Rev. J. O. Mattox

. DEDICATION

The Green River Baptist Association dedicates the annual of its One Hundred Thirty-Third Session to the Reverend James O. Mattox in recognition of his outstanding leadership and service as Moderator 1971-73 and in appreciation for his support of all associational programs and projects.

The Reverend Mr. Mattox was born in Nash County, North Carolina. He received the B.A. degree from Wake Forest University. He earned the B.D. and Th.M. degrees from Southern Seminary.

Reverend Mattox served as an Army Chaplain 1951-54. He was pastor of Hertford Baptist Church, Hertford, N. C. 1954-60 and of First Baptist Church Red Springs 1960-69. Since April 1, 1969, he has been pastor of the First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

Rev. and Mrs. Mattox have two sons and one daughter.



Rev. C. C. Na

NAME: Mattox, J. O.

DATA: Photograph

SOURCE: Green River Baptist Association Minutes, 1982, page 1

NAME: Mattox, James O.

DATA: Photograph

SOURCE: Hertford Baptist Church, 1854-1964 (NCCF)

PAGE: 20

The View From Mount Pisgah's Lofty Height!

It must have been a very special day for both Israel and for himself - that day the venerable old Moses ascended Mount Pisgah's lofty height to view the Promised Land for the last time. For Israel, not only was it a time for the "changing of the guard" from one leader to another, but it was also to be the dawning of a new era, the passing of a new milestone in her pilgrimage toward becoming the people of God she was destined to be.

For Moses, it was the ringing down of the final curtain on one phase of his life, but it was also the raising of that old curtain on a new and more exciting phase.

Indeed, what a moment! What a very special moment in the destinies of a great people of God and for one of his humble servants.

Now, I would not dare compare you, my Beloved People whom I have loved with all my heart for all these years, with Israel for obvious reasons. You are not that obstinate and difficult a people to lead. To the contrary! Nor, for obvious reasons, would I be so absurd as to compare myself with Moses. I am not that great and powerful a leader. Again, to the contrary! But, you know, I can't help but feel a strange and warm sense of similarity between that situation of so long ago and our situation here today. Indeed, while there are differences, to be sure, there are similarities that I believe are as striking as they are significant.

For the next few minutes, therefore, as we review that situation IN THE SPIRIT, I pray you will note some of the similarities and then, "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. . .and the God of peace shall be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9).

Oh, don't you know a lot of living, loving, laughter, and tears, as well as a lot of planning, praying, and hard work had preceded that special moment there on Mount Pisgah's lofty height? The clouds had not always been without their dark shadows, nor had they been without their silver linings. The pathway had not always been without its uncertainties nor had those years been without their memories to cherish, their blessings to share and their successes for which to be proud. What a marvelously magnificent story indeed and what a legacy - the story of Israel and Moses and the great legacy of their years together.

The Book of Deuteronomy is Moses' own valedictory or recounting of their years together and because of its obvious heavenly inspiration at its best, interwoven with human involvement at its best, the book has come to be an all-time classic for the serious student of the Word and for the searching child of God. This truth is verified, I believe, in the fact that Deuteronomy is one of the most quoted books by the writers of the New Testament and by our Lord himself. As a matter of fact, many of His teachings came directly out of this great book. Who can forget, for instance, that all-time great teaching from Deuteronomy that was the very heart of all He preached and lived: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Compare Matthew 22:37-40 with Deuteronomy 6:5).

Deuteronomy is presented in three discourses or sermons, if you will. Therein Moses addresses his beloved Israel while they were still in the land of Moab, just before they crossed that old River Jordan to possess the Promised Land with all its hopes and dreams and challenges and blessings.

The first discourse recounts the command of God way back there to leave Horeb and head for Canaan and all the ups and downs and trials and tribulations they encountered those first years of what turned out to be a forty-year journey, if you recall.

In the second discourse, Moses reviewed the Ten Commandments and the various other laws that were to govern Israel's life in the Promised Land as well as her relationship with God as set forth in the covenant with Abraham.

In the last discourse, the great old soul ever so lovingly reminds Israel of God's goodness and mercy both to their forefathers and to them throughout their history. He warns them of the apostasy, or falling away, that was to come and the destruction that it would surely bring. But, then, as with every true prophet of God with a genuine pastor's heart, he assured them that repentance or a returning to God will assure them of redemption and insure them of restoration. He concludes by placing before Israel the great choice of obedience in love that leads to life OR disobedience in disbelief that leads to disaster and death. Hear him as he makes his plea from the depth of his very being: (Deuteronomy 28:1-9 and 15-20).

CHAPTER 28 181

1 *The blessings following obedience; 15 and the curses and punishments following disobedience.*

AND it shall come to pass, ^aif thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe ^{and} to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God ^bwill set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and ^covertake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 ^dBlessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be ^ein the field.

4 Blessed shall be ^fthe fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy ^gstore.

6 ^hBlessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7 The LORD ⁱshall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall ^jcommand the blessing upon thee in thy ^kstorehouses, and in all that thou ^lsettest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 ^mThe LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

15 ¶ But it shall come to pass, ⁿif thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and ^oovertake thee:

16 Cursed shalt thou be ^pin the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

17 Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

18 Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

20 The LORD shall send upon thee ^qcursing, ^rvexation, and ^srebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto ^tfor to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

Oh, that is real pastoral preaching at its very best, Beloved - loving and encouraging and yet forthright and challenging.

Then, preacher like, dear old Moses just had to put in his "and in conclusion." But what a gloriously masterful finale to a masterful farewell it is. He heartens his dear people

once more, commends to them their new leader, Joshua, and him to them. Listen to the way he puts it in part - first to Israel and then to Joshua: (Deuteronomy 31:6-8).

6 ^d Be strong and of a good courage, ^e fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, ^f he *it is* that doth go with thee; ^g he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

7 ¶ And Mō'sēs called unto Jōsh'-u-ā, and said unto him in the sight of all Is'ra-el, ^h Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8 And the LORD, ⁱ he *it is* that doth go before thee; ^j he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

What a sermon! Oh what a sermon. And interestingly enough, Moses, accompanied by Joshua, sang the invitation, if you please. Now, this is one of those striking differences I was talking about earlier. Moses, apparently, could sing, but I can't! Listen to a stanza or two of that great hymn: (Deuteronomy 32:1-4).

GIVE ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

2 My doctrine shall drop, as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Wouldn't you love to have a recording of that duet by Moses and Joshua? And wouldn't you love to know what the response was? On the other hand, maybe it's good that we don't know because - as the Baptists we are - we just might go off on a tangent over the statistics and overlook the blessings at hand.

At any rate, don't you know that the very portals of heaven themselves were ringing along about then? Can you deny that it was a very special moment for both Israel - the people of God - and for Moses - the faithful old servant of God?

Then, ah then, the moment came - that very special moment that God had been holding for his beloved servant: (Deuteronomy 34:1-4).

AND Mō'sēs went up from the plains of Mō'ab ^a unto the mountain of Nē'bō, to the top of ^b Pis'gah, that is over against Jēr'i-chō. And the LORD ^c shewed him all the land of Gī'e-ād, ^d unto Dān,

2 And all Nāph'tā-li, and the land of E'phrā-im, and Mā-nās'seh, and all the land of Jū'dah, ^e unto the utmost sea,

3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jēr'i-chō, ^f the city of palm trees, unto Zō'ar.

4 And the LORD said unto him, ^g This is the land which I swear unto Ā'brā-hām, unto I'saac, and unto Jā'cob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: ^h I have caused thee to see *it* with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

Oh what a view! What an incredible, magnificent view that must have been for Moses - the view of the Promised Land from Mount Pisgah's lofty height! He had not been allowed the privilege of entering and possessing the Land with his people, but at least he was given a glorious glimpse of what lay ahead for them - "a land flowing with milk and honey" and all that that suggests and promises. (Exodus 3:8).

Even so, Beloved, I stand atop my Mount Pisgah's lofty height here today. God has not allowed me the privilege of leading you on into the Promised Land that He has in store for you. But praise His holy name! He has given me a grand and glorious glimpse of what lies ahead for both you and for me. And what a view, Beloved! What a gloriously wonderful view. Let me assure you, Dear Ones, though we have come a long way together these sixteen years, **the best is yet to be**, as it always is for those who love the Lord with all their hearts and mind and "Who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). I shall take away only cherished memories and deep love for each of you as well as sincere appreciation for our years together.

Alas! Moses went the way of all preachers worthy of their calling. God called him for another assignment - one that surely superceded anything he'd ever imagined or hoped for. His tired old body went the way of all flesh and God himself buried him, we are told. But praise God! The immortal Moses - the real Moses - did not die! Nor, as all who hold fast the hand of the Lord and "who love his appearing," Moses could not die. Nor did he fade away as with old soldiers. Rather, the unrelenting old clock of the ages sounded the noonday hour and his time had run out. His congregation was restless and eager to get on with the exciting things that lay ahead - you know how itchy we Baptists can be when 12:00 comes! Indeed, exciting things were waiting for both Moses and the beloved people he had loved and sought to lead all those years. So, he closed the Book, gathered up his notes and made his exit.

As with Moses, so with me - the Lord called, the Lord led, and the Lord blessed every step of the way. To Him be glory and majesty and honor forever and forever!

Prayer: God be praised for His steadfast love and for His goodness and mercy. Hallow these humble efforts, Dear Father, to thy glory, for the edification of thy church, for the encouragement of the saints and for the salvation of lost sinners 'til Jesus comes and we'll be carried home. In His name, Amen.

(An unedited copy of the sermon as preached by Pastor James O. Mattox to his beloved people of the First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton, North Carolina, on the occasion of his retirement, April 28, 1985.)

The Messenger

JUNE, 1985



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Rutherfordton, North Carolina

WILSON W. PADGETT, INTERIM PASTOR

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TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. MATTOX

About 32 years ago, Mr. Mattox gave his ordination Bible to his brother, Gregory Walcott. Mr. Walcott, who is an actor, screenwriter, and ordained minister (once Vice-President of the Southern Baptist Convention) recently had the Bible reconditioned and sent back to Mr. Mattox. The Bible was presented to Mr. Mattox as a total surprise at the close of the worship service on April 28, 1985, by Harrill Flack as requested by Mr. Walcott. The following is a transcript of what Mr. Walcott has handwritten in the back of this Bible:

"In 1953, I became very serious about my relationship with Jesus Christ. Sensing my sincerity, my brother, James, sent me one of his Bibles. . . the one given to him on his ordination into the gospel ministry.

Through the ensuing years, this Bible became the main resource for my study of the Holy Scriptures and my efforts to discern God's will for my earthly pilgrimage.

This Bible has traveled with me on preaching tours from Savannah to Singapore; on film locations from Canada to Yugoslavia.

As for my brother (five years my senior), the attributes of his character provided a role model for me.

He worked hard in various after-school jobs. He was disciplined in his studies. He was above reproach in his moral values.

He is guiltless of self-pity and free of pettiness.

He is non-manipulative in his relationship with others. Above all . . . he is honest.

His availability to others came first . . . whether it was as a military chaplain on the front lines in wartime Korea or as a pastor loving the people of his community.

He is a man among men. I had a hero-worship for my brother when I was a boy . . . I still do.

It only seems fitting that I return this Bible that he may place it among his memorabilia."

Bernard W. Mattox
(also) Gregory Walcott
Los Angeles, California



Notes From Gregg

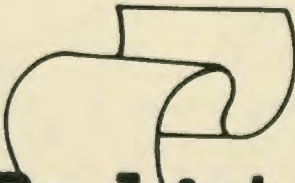
May was full with weddings, conferences, and musical programs. There were several bright spots in the month for me, but certainly the Family Life Conference was the brightest. Those adults who attended the Conference found it to be very useful. They especially liked Dr. Ledford and felt comfortable with him. Our young people really "opened up" to Melanie Price as she led them in a study of depression. I wish more of you had taken advantage of the Conference, especially you young couples. Conferences like this one can be extremely valuable in making your already good marriage better. Another bright spot was the Music Makers' presentation of **Come, Follow Me**. Not only did they learn the words and present the music, but they studied the text, also. I was very proud of them. They were so much fun on our trip to Ghost Town. This group always gives me a lot of hope about the future! On May 24, I was again installed as the Sub-Dean of the Western North Carolina Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. I took the responsibility again, somewhat reluctantly. As Sub-Dean, I am in charge of the monthly programs, yearbook, newsletters, and publicity. It has been a rewarding experience trying to advance the AGO objective which is to "promote worthy church music" in western North Carolina.

June will be an exciting month filled with weddings, church activities, conferences, and vacations. I hope to get away for a few days of vacation during the first part of the month. Then I will attend the Montreat Conferences on worship and music the third week in the month. I usually go to Ridgecrest, but I thought a change would be good. I've heard many good things about the Montreat Conferences. Great church musicians from all over the U. S. will be there. I hope the week will be academic as well as inspirational. Our young people will be meeting in each other's homes this summer and they themselves will be leading the devotional time. In addition to their regular meetings this month, they will be going to Carowinds, playing softball, and attending Vacation Bible School. Be sure to see the VBS article elsewhere

in the **Messenger**. On June 23, the Youth Choir from First Baptist of Cowpens will be here to lead us in evening worship. Watch the bulletin for more details. I do hope you read your weekly bulletin very carefully. Our Secretary, Carolyn Flack, is "top-notch" and does an excellent job of getting our bulletins out. We are lucky to have her. Her professionalism really shows in the work that comes out of the office here.

I hope you are enjoying Mr. Padgett as much as I am. He has proven to be just what our first impressions were--loving and compassionate. I've enjoyed visiting with Mr. Padgett and you seem to be grateful for his interest in the church. Let's continue to hold him up in our prayers as he leads us during this Interim Pastor period. Let us not forget to pray earnestly for our Pastor Search Committee as well. They have spent countless hours going through the tedious process of selecting a Pastor. Several of the Committee members have remarked to me about how great the Committee works together. I'm glad to hear that. Prospective pastors will recognize this unity and it will be a real plus for our church.

Please continue to keep us informed here in the office. During this interim period, we are trying to keep the bases covered. We are counting on your help! I hope to see you in church.



Budget News

We are currently running behind our budget needs. Actually, the problem is one of cash flow due to several expenses our Treasurer has paid recently. Let's do all we can to eliminate this problem. If the problem is not solved quickly, our payment to the Cooperative Program may have to be delayed this month. You have always come through in the past, so let's keep the record good!

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

June 3, 1985

Dear Friends,

It seems impossible that we are beginning our second month with the good people of Rutherfordton. Yet, it seems that we have known you for a long time. Sharing this time with you has added a new dimension to our lives. Your warm, caring spirit has been evident in our services.

Prayer meeting is growing and we invite you to join with us. Last week, we had only one empty chair. Let's come and fill that chair and bring in more seats. This group has been an inspiration to me.

We appreciated so much the musical, **Come, Follow Me**. Gregg did a great job with the children. We are really enjoying the music here and appreciate Gregg and Mrs. Alewine in so many ways.

Yesterday was a great day as we honored our high school graduates. We wish for this fine group the best life has to offer. I believe we have only one college graduate. Miss Sue Farmer graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on May 12. We do want to congratulate her. In all of our churches, Hillary and I have enjoyed the youth, as well as all ages. We want to get to know you better.

We are still remembering Mr. Gene Roberts in the death of Mrs. Roberts. Our prayers and thoughts are with him. We have also been thinking of Eris Allen as she suffered a fall a week or so ago. We have missed her. Mrs. Lucy Brown has returned home from the hospital. To our knowledge, we have no one in the hospital at this time. Sandy Dover Kistler is at home after surgery at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. I was able to visit Sandy and also her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Dover, while they were in Shelby. Please let us know if someone is in the hospital or of other places where we may be needed.

We are so thankful for Carolyn Flack. She has really been a lifesaver in these days of adjustment as Interim

Pastor. She is so efficient in her work and we love her for making things easier for us.

Let's remember our Southern Baptist Convention this month as it meets in Dallas, Texas. We need to pray that God's Will will be sought in every session.

We will look for you Sunday. Pray for us as we work together these days. Be sure to call the office if there is a need of any kind and I will try to be there.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson W. Padgett



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 24-28

The final countdown has begun for VBS. "Share Some of Your Summer with Us and We'll Share Ours with You" is the theme. There will be fun and fellowship for all ages through high school. The VBS Committee, headed by Susan Grissom, has worked hard. The teachers have been selected and are also hard at work. Carolyn Bailey, Carol Brock, and Martha Edwards will lead the Preschool Division. Jane Simpson will be in charge of Children I with Brenda Potts and Ruth Hamrick leading Children II. These ages will meet in the morning hours from 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M. with a refreshment break each day. The night sessions for Junior High and Senior High will be headed up by Jane Cline and Debbie Bumgarner respectively. This is a great faculty! Let's make this year's VBS the best ever!

WORK CONTINUES ON RAMP FOR HANDICAPPED

As the **Messenger** went to press, work was progressing very rapidly on the handicap ramp. It should be completed in a very short time. The church voted to proceed with the \$11,143.00 proposal on May 12. \$3,000.00 has been pledged so far and the remainder of the money will be borrowed.